

AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

APRIL 16, 2015

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

2.7 million

Afghan Refugees Displaced to Neighboring Countries

Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – July 2014

829,295

Afghans Internally Displaced by Conflict
UNHCR – February 2015

6,762

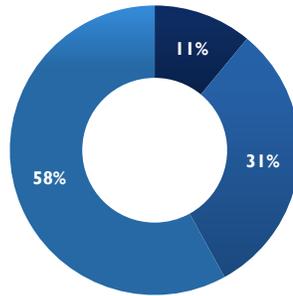
Afghan Refugees Returned from Pakistan to Afghanistan in 2015
UNHCR – February 2015

8,827

Households Affected by Severe Weather Events from February–March 2015

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – April 2015

USAID/OFDA¹ FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2015



- Agriculture and Food Security (11%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (31%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (58%)

USAID/FFP² FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2015



HIGHLIGHTS

- Approximately 48,000 Afghans have returned from Pakistan to date in 2015, reflecting a substantial rise in the daily return rate from 2014.
- Severe weather events affect more than 8,800 Afghan households in February and March.
- USAID/FFP provides 40,300 metric tons (MT) in emergency food assistance to Afghanistan.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2015

USAID/OFDA	\$5,404,105
USAID/FFP	\$54,551,800
STATE/PRM ³	\$9,350,000
\$69,305,905	
TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The UN estimates that nearly 48,000 Afghans have returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan to date in 2015, including both unregistered Afghans and registered refugees. As of February 2015, nearly 750 individuals were returning per day, up from approximately 60 individuals per day in 2014.
- From January to April, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) documented 60 natural disasters in Afghanistan, primarily avalanches and flooding resulting from heavy snowfall and rain. Relief agencies expect flooding to continue through June, likely resulting in additional displacement and humanitarian needs among affected populations.
- To date in FY 2015, USAID/FFP has provided 40,300 MT of emergency food assistance—valued at approximately \$55 million—to support UN World Food Program (WFP) operations in Afghanistan. USAID/OFDA continues to support vulnerable Afghan populations with FY 2014 and FY 2015 funding through relief commodities, shelter and structure support, and health care services, among other assistance.

¹ USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- On March 11, Government of Afghanistan and Government of Pakistan delegations met with UNHCR representatives at the Tripartite Commission Meeting in Islamabad to discuss the humanitarian conditions of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and identify measures to support voluntary repatriation to Afghanistan. The parties reaffirmed their commitment to the principle of voluntary repatriation, acknowledged that full and effective reintegration will be a gradual and challenging endeavor, and agreed to develop a comprehensive return plan in advance of the next Tripartite Commission Meeting scheduled for August. Approximately 1.6 million registered Afghan refugees are currently residing in Pakistan.
- More than 240,000 registered Pakistani refugees—approximately 35,000 families—remain in Afghanistan’s Khost and Paktika provinces as of April 2015, UNHCR reports. Despite a 16 percent decrease in the number of refugees in the region since December 2014, shortages of food and shelter during winter created additional pressure on host communities and resulted in an influx of refugees to Gulam camp in Khost Province. UNHCR is currently conducting a shelter assessment in Gulam camp; shelter is the most pressing humanitarian concern in both Khost and Paktika provinces.
- UNHCR and other relief agencies—including USAID partners IOM, WFP, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the UN World Health Organization (WHO)—continue to collaborate with the Afghan government to respond to the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in Khost and Paktika. Since December 2014, partners have provided supplemental food assistance to more than 62,000 families, emergency relief commodities to approximately 31,000 families, and shelter to approximately 15,000 families in the two provinces. In addition, UNHCR provided winterization assistance—including supplies to fortify existing shelter against winter weather—to more than 27,000 families in Khost and Paktika. The UN and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have also vaccinated more than 67,000 Pakistani children against the poliovirus and established mobile clinics in both provinces to increase access to health care services.
- Humanitarian staff continue to face threats in Afghanistan. As of mid-April, the UN had confirmed 16 humanitarian personnel wounded and eight killed in 2015, including the deaths of five humanitarian staff abducted in Uruzgan Province in March.
- Civilians in Afghanistan also remain under threat from persistent conflict. Between January and March, the UN documented 1,810 casualties—655 deaths and 1,155 injuries—among Afghan civilians. Although the total number of casualties from the first quarter of 2015 is similar to that from the same period in 2014, the number of casualties among women and children—172 and 430, respectively—surpassed the figures recorded in the previous year.
- USAID/OFDA recently committed \$3 million to the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) to support humanitarian access and logistics in Afghanistan. UNHAS operates two fixed-wing aircraft and a helicopter in country, transporting an average of 1,900 passengers and 7.3 MT of cargo per month.

NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- In recent years, the winter weather in Afghanistan that normally ends in January has been extending into March, according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. In February alone, avalanches and floods caused by snowmelt or heavy rainfall affected six provinces in northern Afghanistan, causing approximately 250 deaths, 70 injuries, and total or partial damage to an estimated 6,600 homes, the UN reports. In response, humanitarian agencies supplied emergency relief commodities and emergency health services, including hospital referrals and evacuations as needed, to affected populations.
- To date in 2015, IOM has recorded approximately 60 natural disasters—including avalanches, floods, heavy rainfall, and heavy snow—across 24 of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces. The UN estimates that these incidents collectively affected 8,800 families and resulted in approximately 290 deaths and 100 injuries, destroying or damaging at least 8,600 homes between February and April.
- In response to the severe weather events, the Afghan government, NGOs, and the UN used rapid assessment teams to reach vulnerable communities with critical assistance, including food commodities, medicine, shelter supplies, and other

relief items, OCHA reports. Government of Afghanistan military helicopters transported relief commodities to affected communities rendered inaccessible by damaged roads, difficult terrain, and insecurity. Nearly 3,200 families received food and emergency assistance from the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS).

- Flooding in five Afghan provinces affected more than 430 families from April 4 to 6, according to initial reports from the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA). USAID/OFDA partners, together with the Afghan government, are working to assess and respond to the needs of flood-affected communities.
- ARCS anticipates that spring floods resulting from increased rainfall and ongoing snowmelt will continue through June 2015. Humanitarian actors expect flooding to cause additional displacement, increasing the need for humanitarian assistance. USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, and Government of Afghanistan partners are currently devising spring flood contingency plans. ANDMA's most recent plan includes warning triggers, resources, and response strategies for approximately 172,000 individuals living in flood-prone areas.

FOOD SECURITY AND EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

- The USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) anticipates overall food-insecurity levels from April to June to remain Minimal—IPC 1—with the conclusion of the January–May lean season and above-average rainfall resulting in improved agricultural conditions.¹ Additionally, projected regular rainfall should result in stable food production through June; however, if spring rains fail to continue as forecasted, food security levels—particularly in rain-fed agricultural areas of the north—could decrease. FEWS NET expects the approximately 830,000 IDPs and approximately 9,000 households affected by natural disasters to remain at Stressed—IPC 2—levels of food insecurity from April to June.
- USAID/FFP and USAID/OFDA continue to work with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WFP to address food security needs in Afghanistan. With support from USAID/FFP and other donors, WFP is implementing a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation to respond to the food assistance needs of vulnerable populations, including IDPs, returnees, and individuals affected by natural disasters. To date in FY 2015, USAID/FFP has provided WFP with 40,300 MT of in-kind emergency food assistance—valued at nearly \$55 million—to support food-insecure households. In February, WFP supplied monthly food ration packages to more than 192,000 refugees.
- In addition, USAID/OFDA recently provided \$550,000 to support the activities of the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC)—the coordinating body for humanitarian food security activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. FSAC's activities in Afghanistan will include conducting a comprehensive analysis of the country's food security needs and undertaking emergency assessments during sudden-onset crises.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- Infectious disease remains a major public health concern in Afghanistan. In March, more than 20 measles outbreaks resulted in 317 confirmed cases and two related deaths, highlighting the need for a nationwide measles vaccination campaign, WHO reports. In addition, emergency preparedness activities in advance of the spring floods, such as enhanced surveillance trainings for public health staff, remain a priority in areas prone to flooding and related waterborne disease outbreaks, according to WHO. In the event of significant flooding, the incidence of diarrheal and other waterborne disease may increase as a result of flood-related damages to sanitation and other infrastructure.
- According to the 2015 Humanitarian Needs Overview for Afghanistan, an estimated 1.2 million Afghan children younger than five years of age require treatment for severe or moderate acute malnutrition, while approximately 250,000 pregnant and lactating women with moderate acute malnutrition need nutritional support. WFP and partner organizations continue to provide targeted supplementary feeding support to vulnerable populations throughout Afghanistan, assisting nearly 7,000 children requiring treatment for moderate acute malnutrition and nearly 29,000

¹ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

acutely malnourished pregnant and lactating women in February. Improving the quality and coverage of nutritional activities remains a priority in Afghanistan, the Humanitarian Country Team has noted.

CONTEXT

- Since 2002, ongoing conflict and frequent natural disasters have displaced populations and generated significant humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. As of December 2014, more than 805,000 people remain internally displaced by conflict, while natural disasters, including drought, floods, landslides, earthquakes, and avalanches, affect approximately 250,000 Afghans each year, according to the UN.
- In addition, Afghanistan's food security situation depends on numerous factors, including seasonal agriculture patterns where food availability relies heavily on access to irrigation, agricultural labor, and other wage labor for production; food item availability in the market and consumption per capita as a part of utilization, dietary diversity, and raising livestock; and food stability which is affected by natural and man-made disasters.
- USAID/OFDA supports a three-pronged approach to improving humanitarian response efforts in Afghanistan: supporting rapid response capacity for acute needs following natural disasters and conflict; improving humanitarian indicators; and enhancing humanitarian coordination, data collection, and analysis.
- USAID/FFP food assistance and disaster readiness programs are designed to respond to the food security and nutritional needs of IDPs and returnees, as well as people affected by economic stress; support the recovery of communities affected by shocks; treat moderately malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women; and contribute to learning among primary and lower secondary school pupils and adults, particularly women.
- On October 9, 2014, U.S. Ambassador P. Michael McKinley renewed the disaster declaration for the complex emergency in Afghanistan for FY 2015.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN PROVIDED IN FY 2015¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMAP)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,168,738
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$400,000.00
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$550,000.00
WFP	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$3,000,000.00
	Program Support Costs		\$285,367.00
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$5,404,105
USAID/FFP³			
WFP	40,300 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$54,551,800
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$54,551,800
STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Humanitarian Assistance, Protection	Countrywide	\$9,350,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$9,350,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN TO DATE IN FY 2015			\$69,305,905

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 15, 2015.

³ Estimated value of food assistance.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>